

Jacob or Judah

Jonathan Evans

Review

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Key Scriptures: Genesis 29:31–35

Discuss

1. Read Genesis 29:31–35. If you could talk to Leah during this season of her life, what do you think she would say?
2. When we work hard but get overlooked like Leah, what are some lies the enemy tells us to discourage us?
3. Why is it so important to always remember God sees you—even when people don't?
4. Can you think of a time you did something to gain approval from someone? Share the situation if you're comfortable.
5. Why do you think it's easy to feel disappointed with God when we face difficult situations?
6. How does praising God no matter what we are going through help us keep the right focus?
7. When our motivation to do things is focused on people rather than God, how does it rob us of our joy?
8. Are there things you have been doing to gain approval or recognition from people rather than God? How can you refocus and find renewed peace and joy?
9. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Takeaway

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Like Leah, sometimes we perform so we can gain acceptance from others.
- If our circumstances don't change because of our hard work, we can be tempted to blame God.

- When our focus is on praising God and doing things for His glory—not for people’s recognition—we will find joy and peace.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and accepting us unconditionally. Help us identify the areas in our lives where we are doing things for recognition or acceptance from people instead of You. Please give us the grace to stop striving to perform for the wrong reasons. We receive Your joy and peace as we rest in Your love. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Leader Tip

One thing you can do to lead the way in relational connection is to intentionally call or text people in your group each week. If you are co-leading with someone else, divide your group list and make sure everyone hears from you personally at least once every other week. This will help you stay informed about how people are doing, and it will help people feel cared for.

Group Dynamics Idea

This message may generate some deeper conversations about what is behind someone’s motivation to perform. People often work hard because they are trying to gain acceptance or approval. This can sometimes be tied to experiences from childhood. Be sensitive to this and allow people time to process if they need to go deeper. Also, make yourself familiar with Gateway’s resources if people need to begin a journey of healing in this area. To learn more about ministry opportunities available at your campus, connect with your section leader or explore our Equip Library at gatewaypeople.com/equiplibrary.